

May 2017 Climate Review for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Synopsis: Although wetting rains were observed across the forecast area, May 2017 can be described as a dry month.

Summary

The month featured a combination of wet and dry periods. The first half of the month featured an unstable weather pattern as frequent trofiness aloft along with abundant low to mid-level moisture enhanced the shower and thunderstorm activity the majority of the days. Most of the second half of the month featured a drier weather pattern as high pressure aloft and pulses of Saharan dust kept the coverage and intensity of the rainfall activity at a minimum. The last few days of the month (29th to 31st) featured a return to a wetter pattern as a tropical wave and a mid to upper-level trough produced more widespread coverage of the shower and thunderstorm activity.

Based on the Cooperative Observer Network Data (COOP), an average rainfall total of 4.62 inches was measured across Puerto Rico, which is 2.36 inches below normal (Table 1). At the primary climatological data sites, a rainfall total of 2.05 and 1.77 inches was observed at Henry E. Rohlsen Airport in Saint Croix (TISX) and Cyril E King Airport in St Thomas (TIST) which is 2.10 and 1.29 inches below the normal rainfall, respectively.

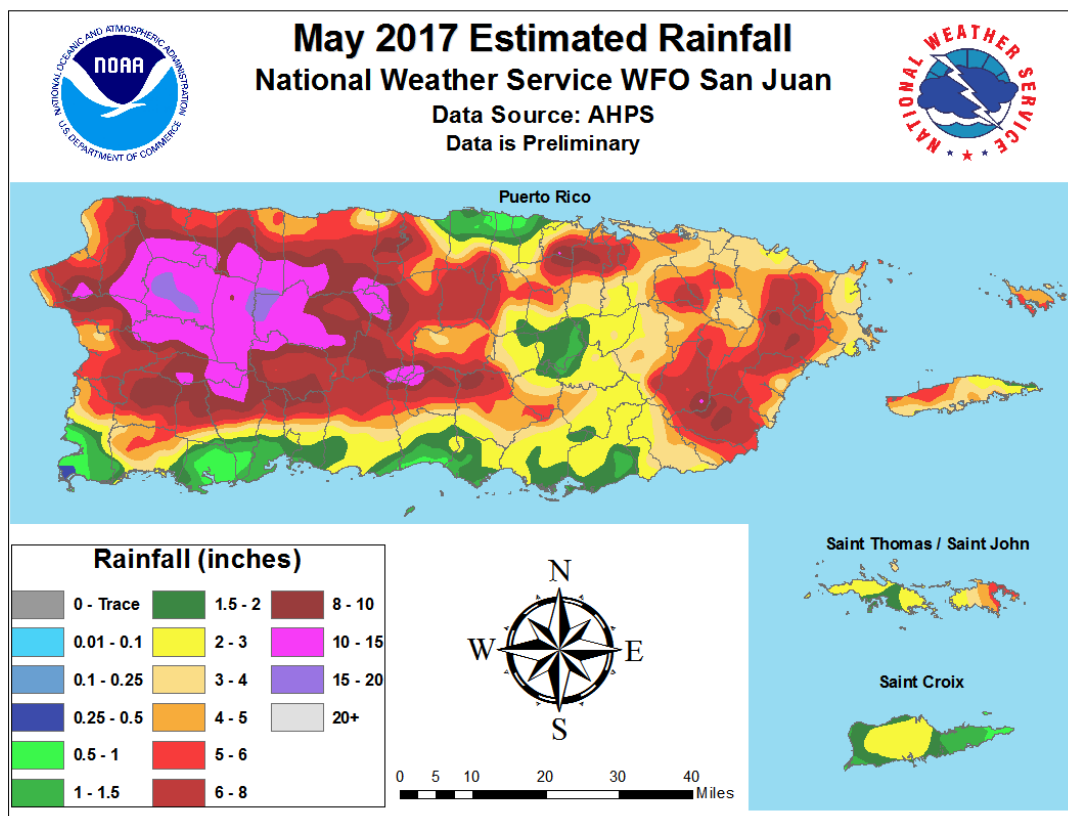
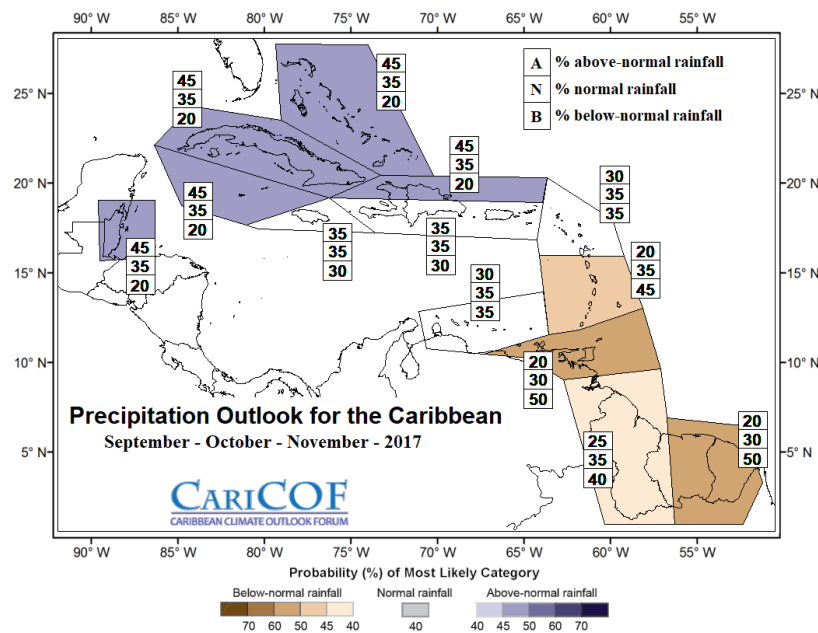
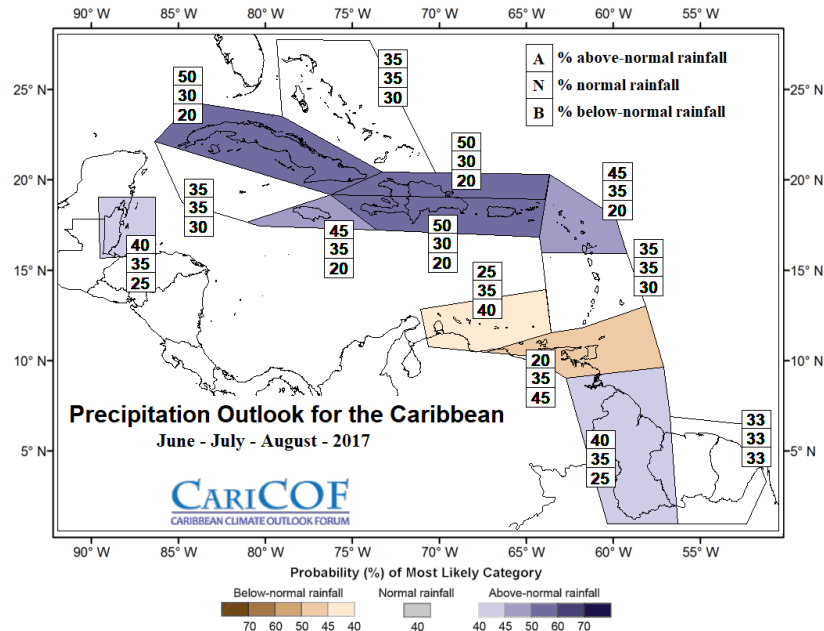


Figure 1. Rainfall Totals based on AHPS

Looking Ahead

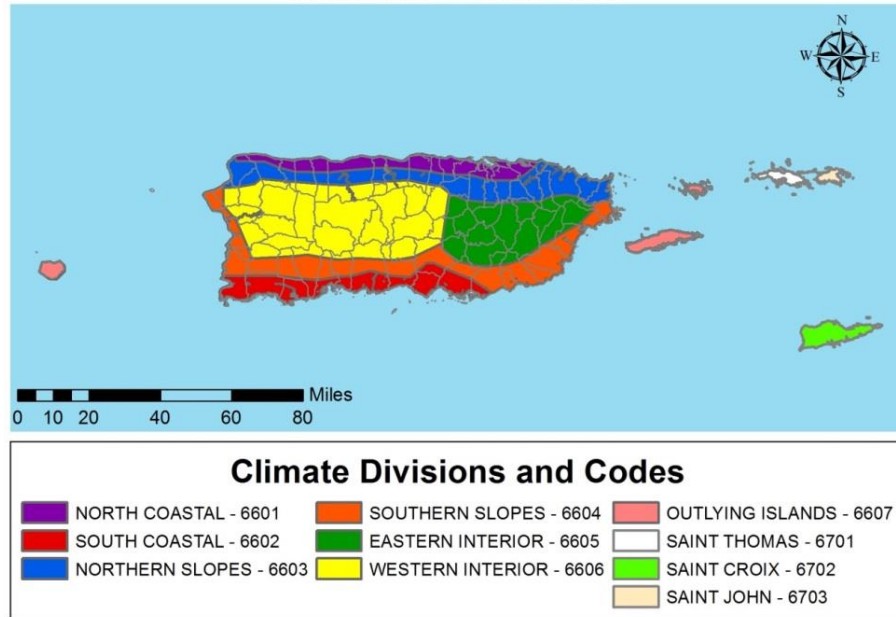
As ENSO conditions are currently neutral, no impact on Caribbean rainfall is expected. Warm Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs) across the north Caribbean may lead to above-average humidity and atmospheric instability, which tilts the odds towards a wetter wet season. With SSTs remaining near or slightly above average throughout the region, air temperatures are also expected to be warmer than average.



More Info: <http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/long-range-forecasts/caricof-climate-outlooks/>

Average Rainfall Accumulation per climate zones based on COOP

Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Climate Divisions



	North Coastal	South Coastal	Northern Slopes	Southern Slopes	Eastern Interior	Western Interior	All PR	St Thomas / St John	St Croix
Observed (May)	5.47	2.44	1.54	3.32	5.51	8.13	4.62	4.12	2.32
Normal (May)	7.24	4.39	7.47	5.90	8.15	8.70	6.98	3.90	3.88
% PON (May)	76	56	21	56	68	93	66	106	60
Accumulated YTD	24.70	8.53	22.89	13.18	32.45	33.24	23.71	10.97	19.17
Normal accumulation YTD	22.29	12.00	23.19	15.95	25.92	23.32	20.45	12.72	11.49
% PON accumulated YTD	111	71	99	83	125	143	116	86	167

Table 1. May 2017 and Year to date (YTD) Rainfall (inches). Percent of Normal (PON).

Historical Rainfall and Temperature

	Puerto Rico		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1990	2.67"	1972	0.44"	2008	0.06"	1974	0.22"
2	1974	2.92"	1973	0.48"	2007	0.28"	2003	0.37"
3	1973	3.05"	1925	0.71"	1973	0.47"	2002	0.39"

Table 2. Driest May on record.

	Puerto Rico		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1986	15.77"	1936	16.88"	1979	9.98"	1981	14.03"
2	1945	14.28"	1965	14.99"	1987	9.80"	2001	11.38"
3	2011	13.90"	2013	14.54"	1980	8.22"	1987	8.89"

Table 3. Wettest May on record.

	Puerto Rico**		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1969	79.3°F	1980	83.8°F	1994	85.9°F	1988	83.6°F
2	1948	79.3°F	1981	83.4°F	2016	83.7°F	1973	83.4°F
3	2010	79.1°F	2007	83.3°F	1973	83.5°F	1972	83.3°F

Table 4. Warmest May on record.

	Puerto Rico**		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
1	1943	70.0°F	1913	76.1°F	1959	79.3°F	1982	76.8°F
2	1940	70.3°F	1929	76.7°F	1957	79.7°F	1979	78.4°F
3	1941	70.3°F	1918	76.8°F	1986	79.8°F	1959	79.2°F

Table 5. Coolest May on record.

** Following years are not included : 1956, 1957, 1959, 1967, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1981**

	Puerto Rico		San Juan Area		IST		ISX	
Temperature	77.1°F		81.9°F		81.9°F		81.4°F	
Rainfall	6.98"		5.90"		3.06"		4.15"	

Table 6. Normal Values for May

Monthly and Seasonal Highlights for Primary Climatological Data Sites.

	March	April	May	Season	Year to Date
San Juan Area	4 th wettest (6.04")	---	---	---	---
IST	2 nd wettest (5.83")		---	---	---
ISX	Wettest (6.40")	3 rd wettest (7.69")	---	3 rd wettest (16.13")	4 th wettest (17.87")

Table 7. Spring 2017

Additional Highlights Based on COOP Data

Wettest Days

Station	Inches (inches)	Date
ARECIBO OBSY	4.40	5/10/2017
MARICAO 2 SSW	3.62	5/11/2017
MARICAO FISH HATCHERY	3.48	5/1/2017

Highest Maximum Temperatures

Station	Temperature (°F)	Date
SAN JUAN L M MARIN AP	93	5/24/2017
San Juan Area	93	5/24/2017
AGUIRRE	92	5/31/2017

Lowest Minimum Temperatures

Station	Temperature (°F)	Date
AIBONITO 1 S	63	5/13/2017
ARECIBO OBSY	64	5/8/2017
PALMA SOLA	66	5/1/2017

Data is preliminary and has not undergone final quality control by the National Centers for Environmental Information / NCEI/. Therefore, this data is subject to revision. Report based on data received until June 8th 2017.

Puerto Rico Climate Record Period: 1940 to 2017

San Juan Metro Area Climate Record Period: 1898 to 2017 (Primary climatological site)

Cyril E. King Airport/St Thomas Climate Record Period: 1953 to 2017 (Primary climatological site)

Henry E. Rohlsen Airport/St Croix Climate Record Period: 1951 to 2017 (Primary climatological site)